

Rams on the Move

Staff, students and alumni of WSSU are accomplishing great things

NAME CHANGE: The School of Education is now the School of Education and Human Performance, according to Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Hammond. Jackson-Hammond said the new title gives adequate recognition and reflection of both departments.

APPOINTMENT: Diane M. Picciuto has been named Director of Development in the Division of University Advancement at Winston-Salem State University.

Picciuto will be responsible for the identification and stewardship of major donors, including individuals, corporations and foundations. Her specific areas of focus will include fundraising for WSSU's School of Business and the Computer Science Endowment Fund, as well as developing strategies to garner support from Fortune 500 corporations.

Picciuto most recently served as executive director of Morris Tomorrow, Inc. in Cedar Knolls, N.J., a private nonprofit strategic planning and visioning organization. In that role, she managed a 30-member board of trustees and a large, diverse volunteer base for an organization that identifies regional issues to improve the quality of life in Morris County, N.J.

Picciuto also served as manager of state and civic affairs at Nabisco, Inc. in Parsippany, N.J. She earned an associates degree in bio-medical technology from County College of Morris, N.J.,

and both a B.S. in biochemistry and M.A. in corporate and organizational communication from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, N.J.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Marshawn Evans, a recent contestant on the popular television program *The Apprentice* and former third-place contestant for *Miss America*, was the keynote speaker for Winston-Salem State University's celebration observance of Womens History Month on Monday, March 13. Evans is chief executive officer of Communications Counts!, a national professional development and public speaking consulting agency, where she travels the country working with politicians, athletes, entertainers and media personalities. Her successes in the classroom and the courtroom took her to the infamous boardroom as one of Donald Trump's handpicked cast members on NBC's hit show *The Apprentice* — watched weekly by more than 10 million viewers. She has also appeared nationally on ABC, VH1, MTV, Showtime and FOX.

As Miss District of Columbia, Evans finished third runner-up, winning the talent and interview categories at the Miss America competition. She is a national spokesperson on youth crime prevention and leadership development, and worked with the U.S. Justice Department as a co-founder of the National Youth Network. In 1996, she founded America CAN!, a comprehensive nonprofit youth leadership initiative.

Evans received her *juris doctorate* from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington.

BUSINESS FOCUS: Under the theme Graduate School 101, graduate students in WSSU's School of Business and Economics participated in a career awareness seminar on Monday, March 20 as part of an effort to encourage graduate school attendance. Two of the three panelists, Byron Washington and Isaac Trouth, are among WSSU's top business graduates. Shirletta Hughes, who served as moderator, is also one of the schools top business graduates, earning both her undergraduate and MBA degrees from WSSU.

CAREER WORKSHOP: African-American executives from some of America's top corporations counseled Winston-Salem State University students in career selection, planning and networking during classroom visitations last month.

During the three-day Career Awareness and Planning Seminar, 12 executives from seven corporations and government agencies, which included UPS, Verizon, Central Intelligence Agency, National Urban League and Philip Morris USA, visited the campus in collaboration with the National Urban League's Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP). The executives also made presentations to business, accounting, management information systems and computer science classes.

ARTS SHOW: Paintings, drawings, sculptures and other artworks are on display through May 13 at Winston-Salem State University's Diggs Gallery during the Annual Winston-Salem/Forsyth County High School Seniors Art Show. Students were chosen for the exhibition by Fine Art instructors at each of the area high schools in recognition of excellence in their work.

To honor these emerging artists, WSSU's Fine Arts Department chair, Dr. Charles Hicks, presented each student with an achievement award during the opening reception. As part of Diggs Gallery's on-going partnership with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, this exhibit encourages young artists by providing them their first opportunity to display their work in a professional art setting.

Diggs Gallery is one of the Souths leading showcases dedicated to African and African-American art. The gallery is a major cultural center at Winston-Salem State University and offers the largest exhibition space dedicated to the arts of Africa and the African Diaspora in North Carolina.

HEALTH FAIR: The School of Health Sciences Division of Nursing and the Center for Community Safety will hold its 2nd Annual Health Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 18 at the

Sprague Street Recreational Center. Participating vendors include LeBleu Ultra Pure Bottled Water, Lyndhurst Gynecological Associates, Novant Health and Temas Eye Center. For more information, phone 336-750-2299.

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE: UnitedHealthcare, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group, has announced a unique partnership with leading African-American academic health centers and business leaders to implement health solutions for employees and faculties of historically black colleges and universities. "UnitedHealthcare is pleased to collaborate with North Carolina Mutual and AV International to offer African American Employee Benefit Solutions (AAEBS), an affordable health-enhancing benefits program designed specifically for historically black academic institutions," said Reed Tuckson, M.D., senior vice president, Consumer Health and Medical Care Advancement at UnitedHealth Group and former president of a minority academic health university. According to John Maupin, D.D.S., president of Meharry Medical College: "Historically black colleges and universities have struggled valiantly to offer affordable and effective health care to their campuses — a struggle made more difficult because of the disparities in health and medical care outcomes experienced by their communities.

This partnership represents the first time a major health company such as UnitedHealthcare has incorporated the expertise of the black medical community in the design and operation of products to meet our specific needs."

The new AAEBS plans focus on providing affordable access to a comprehensive suite of services that includes medical, vision, dental, life, disability and behavioral-health benefits. In addition, based on the input of the black college community, AAEBS integrates health promotion and disease prevention initiatives recommended by minority physician experts into the core offering focusing on conditions such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke and sickle cell anemia.

LECTURE SERIES: Dr. G. Edwin Zeiders, president and chief executive officer of the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, delivered the final lecture in the four-part 2005-06 James A. Gray Lecture Series on Thursday, April 6. His address was titled "Particularity and Peculiarity; Living Responsively in the Face of Ambiguity. Beginning his pastoral work in Annville, Penn., in 1967, Zeiders has served in a variety of ministerial and administrative capacities including district superintendent in the Wellsboro District of Pennsylvania (1987-1995) and director of the Annual Conference Council on Ministries of the Central Pennsylvania Conference in Harrisburg, PA (1995-1999). His education includes a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary (UTS), a Doctorate of Ministry from Boston University and studies at Cliff and Wesley Colleges in England. He also received an Honorary Doctorate from Albright College in Reading, Penn.

OPEN HOUSE: Interested in helping people with disabilities improve their quality of life? Then come hear more about such opportunities during an Occupational Therapy Open House sessions scheduled for Thursday, April 20, from 4 to 6 p.m., on the fourth floor of the F. L. Atkins Building at Winston-Salem State University.

The sessions are designed to build awareness of Winston-Salem State University's Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program, attract prospects for the MSOT program, and build awareness of the Occupational Therapy profession as part of National Occupational TherapyMonth. A majority of occupational therapists work in schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, home health, behavioral health and institutions of higher learning. However, occupational therapy professionals also work in pre- and neo-natal care, sports medicine, architectural engineering, clothing design, wellness programs, and aging in place home modifications.

South Africa opening eyes of U.S. blacks

By Dahleen Glanton
KRT WIRE SERVICE

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — It was a tough decision for Doug Hall, a high-school senior, to spend his spring break trekking through South Africa with his mother and 30 other middle-aged African Americans rather than hanging out in Atlanta with his friends.

But the stories of South Africans who sacrificed their lives for freedom touched his heart, and soon he knew he had made the right choice. He was mesmerized during a visit to Soweto. At Regina Mundi church, a guide pointed out bullet holes in the ceiling from 1976, when police fired upon students who had gathered there to protest apartheid. The guide cried softly, saying that Hall reminded him of his brother, who had died in police custody.

"It was interesting to meet blacks from a different culture and different experiences," said Hall, 17, who was on his first trip out-

side the United States. "Growing up here, the only black people you talk to are the same. They are just like me and they all fit in one box."

While African Americans have long traveled to West Africa in the quest to learn more about their heritage, many of those countries are now involved in internal conflicts that make them less attractive to tourists. As a result, a small but growing number of blacks from the United States and the Caribbean have turned to South Africa as a must-see destination.

During February and March, at least three groups from Atlanta, alumni of Morris Brown College, the *Atlanta Tribune Magazine* and R&B radio station V103 planned tours to South Africa. Oprah Winfrey is building a school for girls in Johannesburg. And recently MTV filmed a group of college students from San Diego who gave up their spring break on the beach to visit South Africa.

This marks a new trend for African Americans, many of whom rallied for U.S. sanctions against South Africa's formerly all-white government during the apartheid era. But in more than a decade since apartheid was abandoned and blacks, including former President Nelson Mandela, have been elected to national office, many African Americans have reversed their position and are more open to traveling to Johannesburg and Cape Town.

"We don't have people knocking our door down saying we want to go to South Africa, but some people are going because it's the best value at the moment. The trend is not necessarily a response to any emotional feelings about South Africa, but it is a first-world country with all the amenities therein and it's economical," said Selma Edwards, owner of EZ Tours, which has been booking trips to Africa for 10 years.

However, some blacks do go there seek-

ing a cultural experience and an opportunity to connect with black South Africans who endured what many of them experienced during the civil rights movement in the United States. The trip offers an example of the parallels in the lives of African Americans and Africans.

In the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, Jean Price was stunned to see rows of nooses hanging from the ceiling, symbolizing the thousands of people who died fighting for their rights. She grew up in Georgia when lynching of blacks in the South was common.

"It was scary to walk in there and see all those ropes hanging. It brought it to reality. It was like oh my God, they did the same thing to them that they used to do to us. I guess there was not much difference because they were both a kind of slavery no matter how you look at it," said Price, 63.

Berry, from page 1

Berry was the first African-American woman to head a major university when she served as chancellor of the University of Colorado at Boulder from 1976 to 1977. She was also one of the founders of the Free South Africa Movement, which instigated protests at the South African Embassy in the successful struggle for democracy in South Africa. She was arrested and jailed several times in the cause.

Dr. Berry has been elected by her peers as a vice-president of the American Historical Association and President of the Organization of American Historians. She has received 32 honorary doctoral degrees and numerous awards including the NAACP's Image Award, the Rosa Parks Award of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the

Ebony magazine Black Achievement Award, the Hubert Humphrey Award of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award.

Berry is also the author of seven books, including *The Pig Farmer's Daughter and Other Tales of American Justice: Episodes of Racism and Sexism in the Courts from 1865 to the Present* (1999); *Black Resistance, White Law: A History of Constitutional Racism in America* (1994, orig. 1971); *The Politics of Parenthood: Child Care, Women's Rights, and the Myth of the Good Mother* (1993); *Why ERA Failed: Politics, Women's Rights and the Amending Process of the Constitution* (1986); *Long Memory: The Black Experience in America, with John Blasingame* (1982); and *Military Necessity and Civil Rights Policy: Black Citizenship and the Constitution, 1861-1868* (1977).

Grads, from page 1

is from an HBCU, but I just know that I have to prove them wrong."

As graduation day approaches, some seniors are worried about their current classes, as well as career plans.

"I plan to start a career in case management or counseling at a school," said Durham native Tori Richardson. Richardson, a 21-year-old sociology major, with a minor in education, added "the scariest part about preparing for graduation is passing the courses that I am in now."

Antonio Broady, a 22-year-old rehabilitation study major from Rockingham, said he encourages "everyone to take full advantage of the opportu-

nities that this school has to offer.

"Pay attention in class because it is going to be your professor that will write your letter of recommendations for graduate school or for your first job," Broady said. "Have a plan for your future, or you will find yourself with a degree not knowing what you are going to do."

Dale Lee, a 22-year-old sociology major, said that although she is ready to leave WSSU, she hopes to continue her studies. Lee has applied to the graduate program at UNC-Charlotte and is waiting to hear whether she has been accepted. Her goal is to earn a master's degree in social work.

"I will miss the black college experience," Lee said.

Evelyn Robinson also plans to attend graduate school. The 21-year-old mass communications major said: "After graduation I plan to attend grad school, hopefully at American University in Washington, DC." She intends to pursue a master's degree in fine arts. Her ultimate career goal is to become a segment producer for the Disney channel and to become the head of the communications department at her high school, the Duke Ellington School of The Performing Arts.

"I want to go back and reform the communications department," she said.

"I'm going to miss my teachers and my friends... all the good times I had," Robinson said.